

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 EUR-08 AF-04 NEA-07 ARA-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01

H-01 L-01 USIA-01 ACDA-10 SP-02 OMB-01 /079 W

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R 250920Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6045

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4022

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SN, SRV

SUBJ: SINGAPORE AND SRV UN MEMBERSHIP

REF: SINGAPORE 4016

1. AFTER SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM HAD FILLED ME IN ON HIS PERSPECTIVE OF COLOMBO NONALIGNED SUMMIT, PARTICULARLY HIS HOPES OF CALLING SRV TO ACCOUNT REGARDING ITS POLICIES TOWARD ASEAN COUNTRIES (REFTEL), HE TOLD ME HE IS THINKING OF CHALLENGING HANOI'S STANCE IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE UNGA. SPECIFICALLY, HE IS CONSIDERING RAISING ISSUE OF WHETHER HANOI'S SUPPORT FOR LAOTIAN RESOLUTION AT NONALIGNED SUMMIT (WHICH HE INTERPRETS AS GIVING THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN SEA THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN ASEAN COUNTRIES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS) SQUARES WITH BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE UN.

2. RAJARATNAM ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD TAKE THIS LINE ONLY IF THE US HAD NOT ALREADY VOTED IN FAVOR OF SRV MEMBERSHIP

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IN THE UN, AND QUESTION OF HANOI'S ELIGIBILITY THUS REMAINED

UNSETTLED. ACCORDINGLY, HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION I COULD PROVIDE HIM WITH RESPECT TO US POLICY ON SRV MEMBERSHIP.

3. RAJARATNAM SAID IN ADDITION HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY AND DISCUSS THIS AND RELATED ISSUES WITH HIM BEFORE HE, RAJARATNAM, DELIVERS HIS UNGA ADDRESS. RAJARATNAM ANTICIPATES ARRIVING IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 25 AND SPEAKING ON SEPTEMBER 28 OR 29.

4. I TOLD RAJARATNAM I WOULD INFORM WASHINGTON PROMPTLY CONCERNING THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR CONVERSATION AND WOULD GET BACK TO HIM AS SOON AS I COULD.

5. COMMENT: SINGAPORE'S DEEP SUSPICIONS ABOUT HANOI'S BASIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS ITS ASEAN NEIGHBORS WERE AMPLY BORNE OUT BY EVENTS AT THE NONALIGNED SUMMIT, AND GOS IS NOW IN THE MOOD TO PUT SRV ON THE SPOT REGARDLESS OF HANOI'S REACTION (RAJARATNAM APPEARED SINGULARLY UNCONCERNED ABOUT THIS REACTION, SAYING THAT "THEY NEED US MORE THAN WE NEED THEM" -- REFERRING TO HANOI'S DESIRE FOR ECONOMIC AID). HE CLEARLY HOPES THAT US WILL ACT SUFFICIENTLY SLOWLY ON HANOI'S BID FOR UN MEMBERSHIP THAT SINGAPORE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO FOLLOW THROUGH. THIS ARDOR MAY COOL SOMEWHAT, HOWEVER, IF THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES TAKE A MORE EQUIVOCAL STAND IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH HANOI.

6. ALTHOUGH I HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN REPLY PROMPTLY AND POSITIVELY TO RAJA'S REQUEST TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY, I ASSUME WE WILL RESPOND MORE CAUTIOUSLY TO HIS EFFORT TO PROBE OUR INTENTIONS CONCERNING SRV'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN. ON LATTER POINT IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO WAIT UNTIL WE SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO RAJA'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AN ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON THIS MATTER. HOLDRIDGE

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